

Executive Summary

An emissions inventory that identifies and quantifies a country's primary anthropogenic¹ sources and sinks of greenhouse gases is essential for addressing climate change. This inventory adheres to both 1) a comprehensive and detailed set of methodologies for estimating sources and sinks of anthropogenic greenhouse gases, and 2) a common and consistent mechanism that enables Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to compare the relative contribution of different emission sources and greenhouse gases to climate change.

In 1992, the United States signed and ratified the UNFCCC. As stated in Article 2 of the UNFCCC, “The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”²

Parties to the Convention, by ratifying, “shall develop, periodically update, publish and make available...national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the *Montreal Protocol*, using comparable methodologies...”³ The United States views this report as an opportunity to fulfill these commitments.

This chapter summarizes the latest information on U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission trends from 1990 through 2006. To ensure that the U.S. emissions inventory is comparable to those of other UNFCCC Parties, the estimates presented here were calculated using methodologies consistent with those recommended in the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC/UNEP/OECD/IEA 1997), the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC 2000), and the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry* (IPCC 2003). Additionally, the U.S. emission inventory has begun to incorporate new methodologies and data from the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC 2006). The structure of this report is consistent with the UNFCCC guidelines for inventory reporting.⁴ For most source categories, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies were expanded, resulting in a more comprehensive and detailed estimate of emissions.

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Box ES- 1: Recalculations of Inventory Estimates

Each year, emission and sink estimates are recalculated and revised for all years in the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, as attempts are made to improve both the analyses themselves, through the use of better methods or data, and the overall usefulness of the report. In this effort, the United States follows the

¹ The term “anthropogenic”, in this context, refers to greenhouse gas emissions and removals that are a direct result of human activities or are the result of natural processes that have been affected by human activities (IPCC/UNEP/OECD/IEA 1997).

² Article 2 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change published by the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change. See <<http://unfccc.int>>.

³ Article 4(1)(a) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (also identified in Article 12). Subsequent decisions by the Conference of the Parties elaborated the role of Annex I Parties in preparing national inventories. See <<http://unfccc.int>>.

⁴ See <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop8/08.pdf>>.

IPCC *Good Practice Guidance* (IPCC 2000), which states, regarding recalculations of the time series, "It is good practice to recalculate historic emissions when methods are changed or refined, when new source categories are included in the national inventory, or when errors in the estimates are identified and corrected." In general, recalculations are made to the U.S. greenhouse gas emission estimates either to incorporate new methodologies or, most commonly, to update recent historical data.

In each Inventory report, the results of all methodology changes and historical data updates are presented in the "Recalculations and Improvements" chapter; detailed descriptions of each recalculation are contained within each source's description contained in the report, if applicable. In general, when methodological changes have been implemented, the entire time series (in the case of the most recent inventory report, 1990 through 2005) has been recalculated to reflect the change, per IPCC *Good Practice Guidance*. Changes in historical data are generally the result of changes in statistical data supplied by other agencies. References for the data are provided for additional information.

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Background Information

Naturally occurring greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and ozone (O₃). Several classes of halogenated substances that contain fluorine, chlorine, or bromine are also greenhouse gases, but they are, for the most part, solely a product of industrial activities. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are halocarbons that contain chlorine, while halocarbons that contain bromine are referred to as bromofluorocarbons (i.e., halons). As stratospheric ozone depleting substances, CFCs, HCFCs, and halons are covered under the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*. The UNFCCC defers to this earlier international treaty. Consequently, Parties to the UNFCCC are not required to include these gases in their national greenhouse gas emission inventories.⁵ Some other fluorine-containing halogenated substances—hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆)—do not deplete stratospheric ozone but are potent greenhouse gases. These latter substances are addressed by the UNFCCC and accounted for in national greenhouse gas emission inventories.

There are also several gases that do not have a direct global warming effect but indirectly affect terrestrial and/or solar radiation absorption by influencing the formation or destruction of greenhouse gases, including tropospheric and stratospheric ozone. These gases include carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and non-CH₄ volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs). Aerosols, which are extremely small particles or liquid droplets, such as those produced by sulfur dioxide (SO₂) or elemental carbon emissions, can also affect the absorptive characteristics of the atmosphere.

Although the direct greenhouse gases CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O occur naturally in the atmosphere, human activities have changed their atmospheric concentrations. From the pre-industrial era (i.e., ending about 1750) to 2005, concentrations of these greenhouse gases have increased globally by 36, 148, and 18 percent, respectively (IPCC 2007).

Beginning in the 1950s, the use of CFCs and other stratospheric ozone depleting substances (ODS) increased by nearly 10 percent per year until the mid-1980s, when international concern about ozone depletion led to the entry into force of the *Montreal Protocol*. Since then, the production of ODS is being phased out. In recent years, use of ODS substitutes such as HFCs and PFCs has grown as they begin to be phased in as replacements for CFCs and HCFCs. Accordingly, atmospheric concentrations of these substitutes have been growing (IPCC 2007).

⁵ Emissions estimates of CFCs, HCFCs, halons and other ozone-depleting substances are included in the annexes of the Inventory report for informational purposes.

Global Warming Potentials

Gases in the atmosphere can contribute to the greenhouse effect both directly and indirectly. Direct effects occur when the gas itself absorbs radiation. Indirect radiative forcing occurs when chemical transformations of the substance produce other greenhouse gases, when a gas influences the atmospheric lifetimes of other gases, and/or when a gas affects atmospheric processes that alter the radiative balance of the earth (e.g., affect cloud formation or albedo).⁶ The IPCC developed the Global Warming Potential (GWP) concept to compare the ability of each greenhouse gas to trap heat in the atmosphere relative to another gas.

The GWP of a greenhouse gas is defined as the ratio of the time-integrated radiative forcing from the instantaneous release of 1 kilogram (kg) of a trace substance relative to that of 1 kg of a reference gas (IPCC 2001). Direct radiative effects occur when the gas itself is a greenhouse gas. The reference gas used is CO₂, and therefore GWP-weighted emissions are measured in teragrams of CO₂ equivalent (Tg CO₂ Eq.).⁷ All gases in this Executive Summary are presented in units of Tg CO₂ Eq.

The UNFCCC reporting guidelines for national inventories were updated in 2002,⁸ but continue to require the use of GWPs from the IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR) (IPCC 1996). This requirement ensures that current estimates of aggregate greenhouse gas emissions for 1990 to 2006 are consistent with estimates developed prior to the publication of the IPCC Third Assessment Report (TAR). Therefore, to comply with international reporting standards under the UNFCCC, official emission estimates are reported by the United States using SAR GWP values. All estimates are provided throughout the report in both CO₂ equivalents and unweighted units. A comparison of emission values using the SAR GWPs versus the TAR GWPs can be found in Chapter 1 and, in more detail, in Annex 6.1 of this report. The GWP values used in this report are listed below in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1: Global Warming Potentials (100-Year Time Horizon) Used in this Report

Gas	GWP
CO ₂	1
CH ₄ *	21
N ₂ O	310
HFC-23	11,700
HFC-32	650
HFC-125	2,800
HFC-134a	1,300
HFC-143a	3,800
HFC-152a	140
HFC-227ea	2,900
HFC-236fa	6,300
HFC-4310mee	1,300
CF ₄	6,500
C ₂ F ₆	9,200
C ₄ F ₁₀	7,000
C ₆ F ₁₄	7,400
SF ₆	23,900

Source: IPCC (1996)

* The CH₄ GWP includes the direct effects and those indirect effects due to the production of tropospheric ozone and stratospheric water vapor. The indirect effect due to the production of CO₂ is not included.

⁶ Albedo is a measure of the Earth's reflectivity, and is defined as the fraction of the total solar radiation incident on a body that is reflected by it.

⁷ Carbon comprises 12/44^{ths} of carbon dioxide by weight.

⁸ See <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop8/08.pdf>>.

Global warming potentials are not provided for CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, SO₂, and aerosols because there is no agreed-upon method to estimate the contribution of gases that are short-lived in the atmosphere, spatially variable, or have only indirect effects on radiative forcing (IPCC 1996).

Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks

In 2006, total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were 7,201.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. Overall, total U.S. emissions have risen by 14.1 percent from 1990 to 2006, while the U.S. gross domestic product has increased by 59 percent over the same period (BEA 2007). Emissions fell from 2005 to 2006, decreasing by 1.5 percent (111.8 Tg CO₂ Eq.). The following factors were primary contributors to this decrease: (1) compared to 2005, 2006 had warmer winter conditions, which decreased consumption of heating fuels, as well as cooler summer conditions, which reduced demand for electricity, (2) restraint on fuel consumption caused by rising fuel prices, primarily in the transportation sector and (3) increased use of natural gas and renewables in the electric power sector.

Figure ES-1 through Figure ES-3 illustrate the overall trends in total U.S. emissions by gas, annual changes, and absolute change since 1990. Table ES-2 provides a detailed summary of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks for 1990 through 2006.

Figure ES-1: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas

Figure ES-2: Annual Percent Change in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Figure ES-3: Cumulative Change in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Relative to 1990

Table ES-2: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
CO₂	5,067.2	5,392.8	5,938.2	5,844.8	5,907.2	5,971.1	6,055.9	6,093.4	5,983.1
Fossil Fuel Combustion	4,724.1	5,032.4	5,577.1	5,507.4	5,564.8	5,636.9	5,700.5	5,751.5	5,639.4
Electricity Generation	1,809.6	1,939.3	2,282.3	2,244.3	2,253.7	2,283.1	2,314.9	2,380.2	2,328.2
Transportation	1,473.5	1,590.2	1,791.9	1,770.3	1,823.8	1,821.4	1,868.5	1,883.1	1,850.1
Industrial	849.9	880.6	863.2	855.0	857.3	858.8	861.0	850.9	866.1
Residential	344.4	359.9	374.3	365.4	362.3	385.0	370.8	360.9	328.7
Commercial	218.5	227.5	229.2	223.3	223.7	237.6	231.9	223.2	211.4
U.S. Territories	28.3	35.0	36.2	49.0	44.0	51.0	53.5	53.2	54.9
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	117.2	133.2	141.4	131.9	135.9	131.8	148.9	139.1	138.0
Iron and Steel Production	84.9	73.3	65.1	57.9	54.6	53.4	51.3	45.2	47.7
Cement Manufacture	33.3	36.8	41.2	41.4	42.9	43.1	45.6	45.9	45.7
Natural Gas Systems	33.7	33.8	29.4	28.8	29.6	28.4	28.1	29.5	28.5
Municipal Solid Waste									
Combustion	10.9	15.7	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.1	20.1	20.7	20.9
Lime Manufacture	12.0	14.0	14.9	14.3	13.7	14.5	15.2	15.1	15.8
Ammonia Manufacture and									
Urea Consumption	16.9	17.8	16.4	13.3	14.2	12.5	13.2	12.8	12.4
Limestone and Dolomite									
Use	5.5	7.4	6.0	5.7	5.9	4.7	6.7	7.4	8.6
Cropland Remaining									
Cropland	7.1	7.0	7.5	7.8	8.5	8.3	7.6	7.9	8.0
Soda Ash Manufacture and									
Consumption	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2

Aluminum Production	6.8	5.7	6.1	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2	3.9
Petrochemical Production	2.2	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6
Titanium Dioxide Production	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.9
Carbon Dioxide Consumption	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6
Ferroalloy Production	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5
Phosphoric Acid Production	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2
Zinc Production	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Petroleum Systems	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Lead Production	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
<i>Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Sink)^a</i>	<i>(736.6)</i>	<i>(774.5)</i>	<i>(672.9)</i>	<i>(749.6)</i>	<i>(826.0)</i>	<i>(860.3)</i>	<i>(873.0)</i>	<i>(877.9)</i>	<i>(882.9)</i>
<i>Biomass—Wood^b</i>	<i>215.2</i>	<i>229.1</i>	<i>218.1</i>	<i>193.5</i>	<i>192.8</i>	<i>193.8</i>	<i>205.1</i>	<i>204.8</i>	<i>204.4</i>
<i>International Bunker Fuels^b</i>	<i>113.7</i>	<i>100.6</i>	<i>101.1</i>	<i>97.6</i>	<i>89.1</i>	<i>83.7</i>	<i>99.8</i>	<i>102.1</i>	<i>125.7</i>
<i>Biomass—Ethanol^b</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>15.7</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>22.6</i>	<i>30.3</i>
CH₄	608.7	598.2	569.3	555.4	557.5	558.7	545.6	539.0	542.3
Enteric Fermentation	126.9	132.3	124.6	123.6	123.8	124.6	122.4	124.5	126.2
Landfills	149.6	144.0	120.8	117.6	120.1	125.6	122.6	123.7	125.7
Natural Gas Systems	124.7	128.1	126.5	125.3	124.9	123.3	114.0	102.5	102.4
Coal Mining	84.1	67.1	60.4	60.3	56.8	56.9	59.8	57.1	58.5
Manure Management	31.0	35.2	38.8	40.2	41.3	40.7	40.1	41.8	41.4
Petroleum Systems	33.9	32.0	30.3	30.2	29.9	29.2	28.7	28.3	28.4
Wastewater Treatment	23.0	24.3	24.6	24.2	24.1	23.9	24.0	23.8	23.9
Forest Land Remaining									
Forest Land	7.1	4.0	14.0	6.0	10.4	8.1	6.9	11.6	11.6
Stationary Combustion	7.4	7.2	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.2
Rice Cultivation	7.1	7.6	7.5	7.6	6.8	6.9	7.6	6.8	5.9
Abandoned Underground									
Coal Mines	6.0	8.2	7.4	6.7	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.4
Mobile Combustion	4.7	4.3	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4
Composting	0.3	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
Petrochemical Production	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
Iron and Steel Production	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Field Burning of									
Agricultural Residues	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Ferroalloy Production	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>International Bunker Fuels^b</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
N₂O	544.9	559.2	556.2	575.4	544.3	518.9	516.3	537.8	531.7
Agricultural Soil									
Management	430.6	428.3	432.6	459.6	430.5	409.2	409.1	432.5	429.7
Mobile Combustion	43.5	53.4	52.5	49.9	45.9	42.5	39.8	36.5	33.1
Nitric Acid Production	17.0	18.9	18.6	15.1	16.4	15.4	15.2	15.8	15.6
Stationary Combustion	12.8	13.4	14.6	14.1	14.0	14.4	14.6	14.8	14.5
Manure Management	12.1	12.8	13.7	14.0	14.0	13.6	13.8	13.9	14.3
Wastewater Treatment	6.3	6.9	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.1
Adipic Acid Production	15.3	17.3	6.2	5.1	6.1	6.3	5.9	5.9	5.9
N ₂ O from Product Uses	4.4	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Settlements Remaining									
Settlements	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8

Composting	0.4	0.8	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Forest Land Remaining									
Forest Land	0.8	0.6	1.7	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.5
Field Burning of									
Agricultural Residues	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Municipal Solid Waste									
Combustion	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<i>International Bunker Fuels^b</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>1.1</i>
HFCs	35.5	56.4	100.0	96.3	103.0	102.3	112.4	119.1	121.3
Substitution of Ozone									
Depleting Substances ^c	0.3	29.1	70.0	76.3	83.0	89.8	96.6	102.3	107.3
HCFC-22 Production	35.0	27.0	29.8	19.8	19.8	12.3	15.6	16.5	13.8
Semiconductor Manufacture	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
PFCs	20.8	15.6	13.5	7.0	8.7	7.1	6.1	6.2	6.1
Semiconductor Manufacture	2.2	3.8	4.9	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.6
Aluminum Production	18.5	11.8	8.6	3.5	5.2	3.8	2.8	3.0	2.5
SF₆	32.7	28.0	19.2	18.7	18.0	18.1	18.0	18.3	17.4
Electrical Transmission and									
Distribution	26.7	21.5	15.1	15.0	14.4	13.9	14.0	14.0	13.2
Magnesium Production and									
Processing	5.4	5.6	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.2
Semiconductor Manufacture	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0
Total	6,309.7	6,650.1	7,196.4	7,097.6	7,138.7	7,176.3	7,254.4	7,313.7	7,201.9
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	5,573.1	5,875.6	6,523.6	6,348.0	6,312.7	6,316.0	6,381.4	6,435.8	6,318.9

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq.

^a Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration. The net CO₂ flux total includes both emissions and sequestration, and constitutes a sink in the United States. Sinks are only included in net emissions total.

^b Emissions from International Bunker Fuels and Biomass Combustion are not included in totals.

^c Small amounts of PFC emissions also result from this source.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Figure ES-4 illustrates the relative contribution of the direct greenhouse gases to total U.S. emissions in 2006. The primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities in the United States was CO₂, representing approximately 83.1 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions. The largest source of CO₂, and of overall greenhouse gas emissions, was fossil fuel combustion. CH₄ emissions, which have declined from 1990 levels, resulted primarily from decomposition of wastes in landfills, natural gas systems, and enteric fermentation associated with domestic livestock. Agricultural soil management and mobile source fossil fuel combustion were the major sources of N₂O emissions. The emissions of substitutes for ozone depleting substances and emissions of HFC-23 during the production of HCFC-22 were the primary contributors to aggregate HFC emissions. Electrical transmission and distribution systems accounted for most SF₆ emissions, while PFC emissions resulted from semiconductor manufacturing and as a by-product of primary aluminum production.

Figure ES-4: 2006 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas (percents based on Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Overall, from 1990 to 2006, total emissions of CO₂ increased by 915.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. (18.1 percent), while CH₄ and N₂O emissions decreased by 66.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. (10.9 percent) and 13.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. (2.4 percent), respectively. During the same period, aggregate weighted emissions of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆ rose by 55.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. (62.8 percent). From 1990 to 2006, HFCs increased by 85.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. (241.9 percent), PFCs decreased by 14.7 Tg CO₂ Eq. (70.8 percent), and SF₆ decreased by 15.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. (46.9 percent). Despite being emitted in smaller quantities relative to the other principal greenhouse gases, emissions of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆ are significant

because many of them have extremely high global warming potentials and, in the cases of PFCs and SF₆, long atmospheric lifetimes. Conversely, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were partly offset by carbon sequestration in forests, trees in urban areas, agricultural soils, and landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps, which, in aggregate, offset 12.3 percent of total emissions in 2006. The following sections describe each gas' contribution to total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in more detail.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The global carbon cycle is made up of large carbon flows and reservoirs. Billions of tons of carbon in the form of CO₂ are absorbed by oceans and living biomass (i.e., sinks) and are emitted to the atmosphere annually through natural processes (i.e., sources). When in equilibrium, carbon fluxes among these various reservoirs are roughly balanced. Since the Industrial Revolution (i.e., about 1750), global atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ have risen about 36 percent (IPCC 2007), principally due to the combustion of fossil fuels. Within the United States, fuel combustion accounted for 94.3 percent of CO₂ emissions in 2006. Globally, approximately 28,193 Tg of CO₂ were added to the atmosphere through the combustion of fossil fuels in 2005, of which the United States accounted for about 20 percent.⁹ Changes in land use and forestry practices can also emit CO₂ (e.g., through conversion of forest land to agricultural or urban use) or can act as a sink for CO₂ (e.g., through net additions to forest biomass).

Figure ES-5: 2006 Sources of CO₂

As the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion has accounted for approximately 77 percent of GWP-weighted emissions since 1990, growing slowly from 75 percent of total GWP-weighted emissions in 1990 to 78 percent in 2006. Emissions of CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion increased at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent from 1990 to 2006. The fundamental factors influencing this trend include (1) a generally growing domestic economy over the last 16 years, and (2) significant overall growth in emissions from electricity generation and transportation activities. Between 1990 and 2006, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion increased from 4,724.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. to 5,639.4 Tg CO₂ Eq.—a 19.4 percent total increase over the sixteen-year period. From 2005 to 2006, these emissions decreased by 112.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. (1.9 percent).

Historically, changes in emissions from fossil fuel combustion have been the dominant factor affecting U.S. emission trends. Changes in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion are influenced by many long-term and short-term factors, including population and economic growth, energy price fluctuations, technological changes, and seasonal temperatures. On an annual basis, the overall consumption of fossil fuels in the United States generally fluctuates in response to changes in general economic conditions, energy prices, weather, and the availability of non-fossil alternatives. For example, in a year with increased consumption of goods and services, low fuel prices, severe summer and winter weather conditions, nuclear plant closures, and lower precipitation feeding hydroelectric dams, there would likely be proportionally greater fossil fuel consumption than a year with poor economic performance, high fuel prices, mild temperatures, and increased output from nuclear and hydroelectric plants.

Figure ES-6: 2006 CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by Sector and Fuel Type

Figure ES-7: 2006 End-Use Sector Emissions of CO₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion

⁹ Global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion were taken from Energy Information Administration *International Energy Annual 2005* (EIA 2007b).

The four major fuel consuming end-use sectors contributing to CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion are industrial, transportation, residential, and commercial. Electricity generation also emits CO₂, although these emissions are produced as they consume fossil fuel to provide electricity to one of the four end-use sectors. For the discussion below, electricity generation emissions have been distributed to each end-use sector on the basis of each sector's share of aggregate electricity consumption. This method of distributing emissions assumes that each end-use sector consumes electricity that is generated from the national average mix of fuels according to their carbon intensity. Emissions from electricity generation are also addressed separately after the end-use sectors have been discussed.

Note that emissions from U.S. territories are calculated separately due to a lack of specific consumption data for the individual end-use sectors.

Figure ES-6, Figure ES-7, and Table ES-3 summarize CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion by end-use sector.

Table ES-3: CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by Fuel Consuming End-Use Sector (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

End-Use Sector	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Transportation	1,476.5	1,593.3	1,795.3	1,774.0	1,827.2	1,825.7	1,873.0	1,887.8	1,855.1
Combustion	1,473.5	1,590.2	1,791.9	1,770.3	1,823.8	1,821.4	1,868.5	1,883.1	1,850.1
Electricity	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.4	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.9
Industrial	1,532.5	1,593.6	1,648.0	1,586.4	1,574.9	1,594.8	1,600.0	1,583.1	1,571.0
Combustion	849.9	880.6	863.2	855.0	857.3	858.8	861.0	850.9	866.1
Electricity	682.5	713.1	784.7	731.4	717.7	736.1	739.0	732.3	704.9
Residential	933.7	998.8	1,131.9	1,123.5	1,147.4	1,180.4	1,175.6	1,208.8	1,154.1
Combustion	344.4	359.9	374.3	365.4	362.3	385.0	370.8	360.9	328.7
Electricity	589.4	639.0	757.6	758.1	785.1	795.4	804.9	847.9	825.4
Commercial	753.1	811.7	965.8	974.5	971.2	984.9	998.4	1,018.6	1,004.3
Combustion	218.5	227.5	229.2	223.3	223.7	237.6	231.9	223.2	211.4
Electricity	534.7	584.2	736.6	751.1	747.5	747.3	766.5	795.4	792.9
U.S. Territories	28.3	35.0	36.2	49.0	44.0	51.0	53.5	53.2	54.9
Total	4,724.1	5,032.4	5,577.1	5,507.4	5,564.8	5,636.9	5,700.5	5,751.5	5,639.4
Electricity Generation	1,809.6	1,939.3	2,282.3	2,244.3	2,253.7	2,283.1	2,314.9	2,380.2	2,328.2

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Combustion-related emissions from electricity generation are allocated based on aggregate national electricity consumption by each end-use sector.

Transportation End-Use Sector. Transportation activities (excluding international bunker fuels) accounted for 33 percent of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2006.¹⁰ Virtually all of the energy consumed in this end-use sector came from petroleum products. Over 60 percent of the emissions resulted from gasoline consumption for personal vehicle use. The remaining emissions came from other transportation activities, including the combustion of diesel fuel in heavy-duty vehicles and jet fuel in aircraft.

Industrial End-Use Sector. Industrial CO₂ emissions, resulting both directly from the combustion of fossil fuels and indirectly from the generation of electricity that is consumed by industry, accounted for 28 percent of CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion in 2006. Just less than half of these emissions resulted from direct fossil fuel combustion to produce steam and/or heat for industrial processes. The remaining emissions resulted from consuming electricity for motors, electric furnaces, ovens, lighting, and other applications.

¹⁰ If emissions from international bunker fuels are included, the transportation end-use sector accounted for 34 percent of U.S. emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2006.

Residential and Commercial End-Use Sectors. The residential and commercial end-use sectors accounted for 20 and 18 percent, respectively, of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2006. Both sectors relied heavily on electricity for meeting energy demands, with 72 and 79 percent, respectively, of their emissions attributable to electricity consumption for lighting, heating, cooling, and operating appliances. The remaining emissions were due to the consumption of natural gas and petroleum for heating and cooking.

Electricity Generation. The United States relies on electricity to meet a significant portion of its energy demands, especially for lighting, electric motors, heating, and air conditioning. Electricity generators consumed 36 percent of U.S. energy from fossil fuels and emitted 41 percent of the CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion in 2006. The type of fuel combusted by electricity generators has a significant effect on their emissions. For example, some electricity is generated with low CO₂ emitting energy technologies, particularly non-fossil options such as nuclear, hydroelectric, or geothermal energy. However, electricity generators rely on coal for over half of their total energy requirements and accounted for 94 percent of all coal consumed for energy in the United States in 2006. Consequently, changes in electricity demand have a significant impact on coal consumption and associated CO₂ emissions.

Other significant CO₂ trends included the following:

- CO₂ emissions from non-energy use of fossil fuels have increased 20.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. (18 percent) from 1990 through 2006. Emissions from non-energy uses of fossil fuels were 138.0 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006, which constituted 2.4 percent of overall fossil fuel CO₂ emissions and 2.3 percent of total national CO₂ emissions, approximately the same proportion as in 1990.
- CO₂ emissions from iron and steel production increased by 5.4 percent to 47.7 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006, but have declined overall by 37.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. (44 percent) from 1990 through 2006, due to restructuring of the industry, technological improvements, and increased scrap utilization.
- In 2006, CO₂ emissions from cement manufacture decreased slightly by 0.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. (0.4 percent) from 2005 to 2006. This decrease occurs despite the overall increase over the time series. After falling in 1991 by two percent from 1990 levels, cement production emissions grew every year through 2005. Overall, from 1990 to 2006, emissions from cement manufacture increased by 37 percent, an increase of 12.5 Tg CO₂ Eq..
- CO₂ emissions from municipal solid waste combustion (20.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006) increased by 10.0 Tg CO₂ Eq. (91 percent) from 1990 through 2006, as the volume of plastics and other fossil carbon-containing materials in municipal solid waste grew.
- CO₂ emissions from ammonia manufacture and urea consumption (12.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006) have decreased by 4.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. (27 percent) since 1990. The decrease in emissions from ammonia manufacture and urea consumption is associated with an overall decrease in domestic ammonia manufacture, and is due to several factors including market fluctuations and high natural gas prices.
- Net CO₂ sequestration from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry increased by 146.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. (20 percent) from 1990 through 2006. This increase was primarily due to an increase in the rate of net carbon accumulation in forest carbon stocks, particularly in aboveground and belowground tree biomass. Annual carbon accumulation in landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps slowed over this period, while the rate of carbon accumulation in urban trees increased.

Methane Emissions

According to the IPCC, CH₄ is more than 20 times as effective as CO₂ at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Over the last two hundred and fifty years, the concentration of CH₄ in the atmosphere increased by 148 percent (IPCC 2007). Anthropogenic sources of CH₄ include landfills, natural gas and petroleum systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, wastewater treatment, stationary and mobile combustion, and certain industrial processes (see Figure ES-8).

Figure ES-8: 2006 Sources of CH₄

Some significant trends in U.S. emissions of CH₄ include the following:

- Enteric Fermentation is the largest anthropogenic source of CH₄ emissions in the United States. In 2006, enteric fermentation CH₄ emissions were 126.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. (approximately 23.3 percent of total CH₄ emissions), which represents a decline of 0.7 Tg CO₂ Eq., or 0.6 percent, since 1990. Despite this overall decline in emissions, the last two years have shown a slight increase in emissions.
- Landfills are the second largest anthropogenic source of CH₄ emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 23.2 percent of total CH₄ emissions (125.7 Tg CO₂ Eq.) in 2006. From 1990 to 2006, net CH₄ emissions from landfills decreased by 23.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. (16 percent), with small increases occurring in some interim years. This downward trend in overall emissions is the result of increases in the amount of landfill gas collected and combusted,¹¹ which has more than offset the additional CH₄ emissions resulting from an increase in the amount of municipal solid waste landfilled.
- CH₄ emissions from natural gas systems were 102.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006; emissions have declined by 22.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. (18 percent) since 1990. This decline has been due to improvements in technology and management practices, as well as some replacement of old equipment.
- In 2006, CH₄ emissions from coal mining were 58.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. This decline of 25.6 Tg CO₂ Eq. (30 percent) from 1990 results from the mining of less gassy coal from underground mines and the increased use of CH₄ collected from degasification systems.
- CH₄ emissions from manure management increased by 34 percent for CH₄, from 31.0 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 1990 to 41.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006. The majority of this increase was from swine and dairy cow manure, since the general trend in manure management is one of increasing use of liquid systems, which tends to produce greater CH₄ emissions. The increase in liquid systems is the combined result of a shift to larger facilities, and to facilities in the West and Southwest, all of which tend to use liquid systems. Also, new regulations limiting the application of manure nutrients have shifted manure management practices at smaller dairies from daily spread to manure managed and stored on site.
- In 2006, CH₄ emissions from composting increased by less than 0.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. (1.1 percent) from 2005 to 2006. Emissions from composting have been continually increasing since 1990, from 0.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. to 1.6 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006, a four-fold increase over the time series.

Nitrous Oxide Emissions

N₂O is produced by biological processes that occur in soil and water and by a variety of anthropogenic activities in the agricultural, energy-related, industrial, and waste management fields. While total N₂O emissions are much lower than CO₂ emissions, N₂O is approximately 300 times more powerful than CO₂ at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Since 1750, the global atmospheric concentration of N₂O has risen by approximately 18 percent (IPCC 2007). The main anthropogenic activities producing N₂O in the United States are agricultural soil management, fuel combustion in motor vehicles, nitric acid production, stationary fuel combustion, manure management, and wastewater treatment (see Figure ES-9).

Figure ES-9: 2006 Sources of N₂O

¹¹ The CO₂ produced from combusted landfill CH₄ at landfills is not counted in national inventories as it is considered part of the natural C cycle of decomposition.

Some significant trends in U.S. emissions of N₂O include the following:

- Agricultural soils produced approximately 81 percent of N₂O emissions in the United States in 2006. Estimated emissions from this source in 2006 were 429.7 Tg CO₂ Eq. Annual N₂O emissions from agricultural soils fluctuated between 1990 and 2006, although overall emissions were 0.2 percent lower in 2006 than in 1990. N₂O emissions from this source have not shown any significant long-term trend, as they are highly sensitive to the amount of N applied to soils, which has not changed significantly over the time-period, and to weather patterns and crop type.
- In 2006, N₂O emissions from mobile combustion were 33.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. (approximately 6 percent of U.S. N₂O emissions). From 1990 to 2006, N₂O emissions from mobile combustion decreased by 24 percent. However, from 1990 to 1998 emissions increased by 26 percent, due to control technologies that reduced NO_x emissions while increasing N₂O emissions. Since 1998, newer control technologies have led to a steady decline in N₂O from this source.
- N₂O emissions from adipic acid production were 5.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006, and have decreased significantly in recent years from the widespread installation of pollution control measures. Emissions from adipic acid production have decreased 61 percent since 1990, and emissions from adipic acid production have fluctuated by less than 1 Tg CO₂ Eq. annually since 1998.
- In 2006, N₂O emissions from composting were 1.8 Tg CO₂ Eq., an increase of less than 0.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. (1.1 percent) from 2005 to 2006. Emissions from composting have been continually increasing since 1990, from 0.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. to 1.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006, a four-fold increase over the time series.

HFC, PFC, and SF₆ Emissions

HFCs and PFCs are families of synthetic chemicals that are used as alternatives to the ODSs, which are being phased out under the *Montreal Protocol* and Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. HFCs and PFCs do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, and are therefore acceptable alternatives under the *Montreal Protocol*.

These compounds, however, along with SF₆, are potent greenhouse gases. In addition to having high global warming potentials, SF₆ and PFCs have extremely long atmospheric lifetimes, resulting in their essentially irreversible accumulation in the atmosphere once emitted. Sulfur hexafluoride is the most potent greenhouse gas the IPCC has evaluated.

Other emissive sources of these gases include HCFC-22 production, electrical transmission and distribution systems, semiconductor manufacturing, aluminum production, and magnesium production and processing (see Figure ES-10).

Figure ES-10: 2006 Sources of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆

Some significant trends in U.S. HFC, PFC, and SF₆ emissions include the following:

- Emissions resulting from the substitution of ozone depleting substances (e.g., CFCs) have been increasing from small amounts in 1990 to 107.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006. Emissions from substitutes for ozone depleting substances are both the largest and the fastest growing source of HFC, PFC, and SF₆ emissions. These emissions have been increasing as phase-outs required under the Montreal Protocol come into effect, especially after 1994 when full market penetration was made for the first generation of new technologies featuring ODS substitutes.
- HFC emissions from the production of HCFC-22 decreased by 61 percent (21.2 Tg CO₂ Eq.) from 1990

through 2006, due to a steady decline in the emission rate of HFC-23 (i.e., the amount of HFC-23 emitted per kilogram of HCFC-22 manufactured) and the use of thermal oxidation at some plants to reduce HFC-23 emissions.

- SF₆ emissions from electric power transmission and distribution systems decreased by 51 percent (13.5 Tg CO₂ Eq.) from 1990 to 2006, primarily because of higher purchase prices for SF₆ and efforts by industry to reduce emissions.
- PFC emissions from aluminum production decreased by 87 percent (16.1 Tg CO₂ Eq.) from 1990 to 2006, due to both industry emission reduction efforts and lower domestic aluminum production.

Overview of Sector Emissions and Trends

In accordance with the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC/UNEP/OECD/IEA 1997), and the 2003 *UNFCCC Guidelines on Reporting and Review* (UNFCCC 2003), the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks report is segregated into six sector-specific chapters. Figure ES-11 and Table ES-4 aggregate emissions and sinks by these chapters. Emissions of all gases can be summed from each source category from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance. Over the sixteen-year period of 1990 to 2006, total emissions in the Energy, Industrial Processes, and Agriculture sectors climbed by 874.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. (17 percent), 19.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. (6 percent), and 10.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. (2 percent), respectively. Emissions decreased in the Waste and Solvent and Other Product Use sectors by 18.6 Tg CO₂ Eq. (10 percent) and less than 0.01 Tg CO₂ Eq. (less than 1 percent), respectively. Over the same period, estimates of net C sequestration in the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry sector increased by 139.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. (20 percent).

Figure ES-11: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by Chapter/IPCC Sector

Table ES-4: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by Chapter/IPCC Sector (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Chapter/IPCC Sector	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Energy	5,204.0	5,529.6	6,067.8	5,982.8	6,036.3	6,098.4	6,170.2	6,195.0	6,078.4
Industrial Processes	297.1	308.9	324.9	294.9	303.9	297.7	310.3	311.8	316.3
Solvent and Other Product Use	4.4	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Agriculture	608.7	617.3	618.4	646.3	617.5	596.2	594.3	620.9	618.9
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Emissions)	16.0	13.0	24.8	16.5	22.1	19.3	17.4	22.8	22.9
Waste	179.6	176.8	155.6	152.1	154.5	160.3	157.7	158.7	161.0
Total Emissions	6,309.7	6,650.1	7,196.4	7,097.6	7,138.7	7,176.3	7,254.4	7,313.7	7,201.9
Net CO ₂ Flux from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Sinks)*	(736.6)	(774.5)	(672.9)	(749.6)	(826.0)	(860.3)	(873.0)	(877.9)	(882.9)
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	5,573.1	5,875.6	6,523.6	6,348.0	6,312.7	6,316.0	6,381.4	6,435.8	6,318.9

* The net CO₂ flux total includes both emissions and sequestration, and constitutes a sink in the United States. Sinks are only included in net emissions total.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

Energy

The Energy chapter contains emissions of all greenhouse gases resulting from stationary and mobile energy activities including fuel combustion and fugitive fuel emissions. Energy-related activities, primarily fossil fuel combustion, accounted for the vast majority of U.S. CO₂ emissions for the period of 1990 through 2006. In 2006, approximately 83 percent of the energy consumed in the United States (on a Btu basis) was produced through the

combustion of fossil fuels. The remaining 17 percent came from other energy sources such as hydropower, biomass, nuclear, wind, and solar energy (see Figure ES-12). Energy related activities are also responsible for CH₄ and N₂O emissions (37 percent and 9 percent of total U.S. emissions of each gas, respectively). Overall, emission sources in the Energy chapter account for a combined 84.4 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2006.

Figure ES-12: 2006 U.S. Energy Consumption by Energy Source

Industrial Processes

The Industrial Processes chapter contains by-product or fugitive emissions of greenhouse gases from industrial processes not directly related to energy activities such as fossil fuel combustion. For example, industrial processes can chemically transform raw materials, which often release waste gases such as CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O. These processes include iron and steel production, cement manufacture, ammonia manufacture and urea consumption, lime manufacture, limestone and dolomite use (e.g., flux stone, flue gas desulfurization, and glass manufacturing), soda ash manufacture and use, titanium dioxide production, phosphoric acid production, ferroalloy production, CO₂ consumption, silicon carbide production and consumption, aluminum production, petrochemical production, nitric acid production, adipic acid production, lead production, and zinc production. Additionally, emissions from industrial processes release HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆. Overall, emission sources in the Industrial Process chapter account for 4.4 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2006.

Solvent and Other Product Use

The Solvent and Other Product Use chapter contains greenhouse gas emissions that are produced as a by-product of various solvent and other product uses. In the United States, emissions from N₂O from Product Uses, the only source of greenhouse gas emissions from this sector, accounted for less than 0.1 percent of total U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions on a carbon equivalent basis in 2006.

Agriculture

The Agricultural chapter contains anthropogenic emissions from agricultural activities (except fuel combustion, which is addressed in the Energy chapter, and agricultural CO₂ fluxes, which are addressed in the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry Chapter). Agricultural activities contribute directly to emissions of greenhouse gases through a variety of processes, including the following source categories: enteric fermentation in domestic livestock, livestock manure management, rice cultivation, agricultural soil management, and field burning of agricultural residues. CH₄ and N₂O were the primary greenhouse gases emitted by agricultural activities. CH₄ emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management represented about 23 percent and 8 percent of total CH₄ emissions from anthropogenic activities, respectively, in 2006. Agricultural soil management activities such as fertilizer application and other cropping practices were the largest source of U.S. N₂O emissions in 2006, accounting for 80 percent. In 2006, emission sources accounted for in the Agricultural chapters were responsible for 8.6 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

The Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry chapter contains emissions of CH₄ and N₂O, and emissions and removals of CO₂ from forest management, other land-use activities, and land-use change. Forest management practices, tree planting in urban areas, the management of agricultural soils, and the landfilling of yard trimmings and food scraps have resulted in a net uptake (sequestration) of C in the United States. Forests (including vegetation, soils, and harvested wood) accounted for approximately 84 percent of total 2006 net CO₂ flux, urban trees accounted for 11 percent, mineral and organic soil carbon stock changes accounted for 4 percent, and landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps accounted for 1 percent of the total net flux in 2006. The net forest sequestration is a result of net forest growth and increasing forest area, as well as a net accumulation of carbon

stocks in harvested wood pools. The net sequestration in urban forests is a result of net tree growth in these areas. In agricultural soils, mineral and organic soils sequester approximately 70 percent more C than is emitted through these soils, liming, and urea fertilization, combined. The mineral soil C sequestration is largely due to the conversion of cropland to permanent pastures and hay production, a reduction in summer fallow areas in semi-arid areas, an increase in the adoption of conservation tillage practices, and an increase in the amounts of organic fertilizers (i.e., manure and sewage sludge) applied to agriculture lands. The landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps net sequestration is due to the long-term accumulation of yard trimming carbon and food scraps in landfills. Land use, land-use change, and forestry activities in 2006 resulted in a net C sequestration of 882.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. (Table ES-5). This represents an offset of approximately 14.8 percent of total U.S. CO₂ emissions, or 12.3 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2006. Total land use, land-use change, and forestry net C sequestration increased by approximately 20 percent between 1990 and 2006, primarily due to an increase in the rate of net C accumulation in forest C stocks, particularly in aboveground and belowground tree biomass. Annual C accumulation in landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps slowed over this period, while the rate of annual C accumulation increased in urban trees. Net U.S. emissions (all sources and sinks) increased by 13.4 percent from 1990 to 2006.

Table ES-5: Net CO₂ Flux from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Sink Category	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Forest Land									
Remaining Forest Land	(621.7)	(659.9)	(550.7)	(623.4)	(697.3)	(730.9)	(741.4)	(743.6)	(745.1)
Changes in Forest Carbon Stocks	(621.7)	(659.9)	(550.7)	(623.4)	(697.3)	(730.9)	(741.4)	(743.6)	(745.1)
Cropland Remaining Cropland	(30.1)	(39.4)	(38.4)	(40.0)	(40.3)	(40.5)	(40.9)	(41.0)	(41.8)
Mineral and Organic Soil Carbon Stock Changes	(30.1)	(39.4)	(38.4)	(40.0)	(40.3)	(40.5)	(40.9)	(41.0)	(41.8)
Land Converted to Cropland	14.7	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Mineral and Organic Soil Carbon Stock Changes	14.7	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Grassland Remaining Grassland	(1.9)	16.6	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.3	16.3	16.2
Mineral and Organic Soil Carbon Stock Changes	(1.9)	16.6	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.3	16.3	16.2
Land Converted to Grassland	(14.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)
Mineral and Organic Soil Carbon Stock Changes	(14.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)	(16.3)
Settlements Remaining Settlements	(60.6)	(71.5)	(82.4)	(84.6)	(86.8)	(88.9)	(91.1)	(93.3)	(95.5)
Urban Trees	(60.6)	(71.5)	(82.4)	(84.6)	(86.8)	(88.9)	(91.1)	(93.3)	(95.5)
Other	(22.8)	(13.3)	(10.8)	(10.9)	(11.0)	(9.4)	(8.9)	(9.3)	(9.8)
Landfilled Yard Trimmings and Food Scraps	(22.8)	(13.3)	(10.8)	(10.9)	(11.0)	(9.4)	(8.9)	(9.3)	(9.8)
Total	(736.6)	(774.5)	(672.9)	(749.6)	(826.0)	(860.3)	(873.0)	(877.9)	(882.9)

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate net sequestration.

Emissions from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry are shown in Table ES-6. The application of crushed

limestone and dolomite to managed land (i.e., soil liming) and urea fertilization resulted in CO₂ emissions of 8.0 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2006, and increase of 13 percent relative to 1990. The application of synthetic fertilizers to forest and settlement soils in 2006 resulted in direct N₂O emissions of 2.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. Direct N₂O emissions from fertilizer application increased by approximately 97 percent between 1990 and 2006. Non-CO₂ emissions from forest fires in 2006 resulted in CH₄ emissions of 11.6 Tg CO₂ Eq., and in N₂O emissions of 1.2 Tg CO₂ Eq.

Table ES-6: Emissions from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Source Category	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
CO₂	7.1	7.0	7.5	7.8	8.5	8.3	7.6	7.9	8.0
Cropland Remaining Cropland:									
Liming of Agricultural Soils & Urea Fertilization	7.1	7.0	7.5	7.8	8.5	8.3	7.6	7.9	8.0
CH₄	7.1	4.0	14.0	6.0	10.4	8.1	6.9	11.6	11.6
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land:									
Forest Fires	7.1	4.0	14.0	6.0	10.4	8.1	6.9	11.6	11.6
N₂O	1.8	1.9	3.3	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.3
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land:									
Forest Fires	0.7	0.4	1.4	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.2	1.2
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land:									
Forest Soils	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Settlements Remaining Settlements:									
Settlement Soils	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8
Total	16.0	13.0	24.8	16.5	22.1	19.3	17.4	22.8	22.9

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate net sequestration.

Waste

The Waste chapter contains emissions from waste management activities (except waste incineration, which is addressed in the Energy chapter). Landfills were the largest source of anthropogenic CH₄ emissions in the Waste chapter, accounting for 23 percent of total U.S. CH₄ emissions.¹² Additionally, wastewater treatment accounts for 4 percent of U.S. CH₄ emissions. N₂O emissions from the discharge of wastewater treatment effluents into aquatic environments were estimated, as were N₂O emissions from the treatment process itself. Emissions of CH₄ and N₂O from composting grew from 1990 to 2006, and resulted in emissions of 1.6 Tg CO₂ Eq. and 1.8 Tg CO₂ Eq., respectively. Overall, in 2006, emission sources accounted for in the Waste chapter generated 2.2 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Other Information

Emissions by Economic Sector

Throughout the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks report, emission estimates are grouped into six sectors (i.e., chapters) defined by the IPCC: Energy; Industrial Processes; Solvent Use; Agriculture; Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry; and Waste. While it is important to use this characterization for consistency with UNFCCC reporting guidelines, it is also useful to allocate emissions into more commonly used sectoral categories. This section reports emissions by the following economic sectors: Residential, Commercial, Industry,

¹² Landfills also store carbon, due to incomplete degradation of organic materials such as wood products and yard trimmings, as described in the Land-Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry chapter of the Inventory report.

Transportation, Electricity Generation, Agriculture, and U.S. Territories.

Table ES-7 summarizes emissions from each of these sectors, and Figure ES-13 shows the trend in emissions by sector from 1990 to 2006.

Figure ES-13: Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors

Table ES-7: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Implied Sectors	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Electric Power Industry	1,859.1	1,989.7	2,328.9	2,290.9	2,300.4	2,329.4	2,363.5	2,430.0	2,377.8
Transportation	1,532.5	1,677.2	1,910.0	1,888.8	1,941.4	1,937.7	1,985.1	1,997.6	1,960.4
Industry	1,462.6	1,474.8	1,435.5	1,385.6	1,384.7	1,376.8	1,389.1	1,357.2	1,372.0
Agriculture	670.8	686.7	693.0	712.2	691.2	659.1	661.5	687.9	686.1
Commercial	399.3	406.2	391.5	384.0	389.1	411.3	405.9	401.7	395.9
Residential	351.2	374.4	390.2	381.5	378.7	402.1	388.4	378.8	347.4
U.S. Territories	34.1	41.1	47.3	54.5	53.3	59.7	61.0	60.5	62.4
Total Emissions	6,309.7	6,650.1	7,196.4	7,097.6	7,138.7	7,176.3	7,254.4	7,313.7	7,201.9
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Sinks)	(736.6)	(774.5)	(672.9)	(749.6)	(826.0)	(860.3)	(873.0)	(877.9)	(882.9)
Net	5,573.1	5,875.6	6,523.6	6,348.0	6,312.7	6,316.0	6,381.4	6,435.8	6,318.9

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Emissions include CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆.

See Table 2-12 for more detailed data.

Using this categorization, emissions from electricity generation accounted for the largest portion (33 percent) of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2006. Transportation activities, in aggregate, accounted for the second largest portion (27 percent). Emissions from industry accounted for 19 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2006. In contrast to electricity generation and transportation, emissions from industry have in general declined over the past decade. The long-term decline in these emissions has been due to structural changes in the U.S. economy (i.e., shifts from a manufacturing-based to a service-based economy), fuel switching, and energy efficiency improvements. The remaining 21 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were contributed by the residential, agriculture, and commercial sectors, plus emissions from U.S. territories. The residential sector accounted for about 5 percent, and primarily consisted of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion. Activities related to agriculture accounted for roughly 10 percent of U.S. emissions; unlike other economic sectors, agricultural sector emissions were dominated by N₂O emissions from agricultural soil management and CH₄ emissions from enteric fermentation, rather than CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion. The commercial sector accounted for about 5 percent of emissions, while U.S. territories accounted for 1 percent.

CO₂ was also emitted and sequestered by a variety of activities related to forest management practices, tree planting in urban areas, the management of agricultural soils, and landfilling of yard trimmings.

Electricity is ultimately consumed in the economic sectors described above. Table ES-8 presents greenhouse gas emissions from economic sectors with emissions related to electricity generation distributed into end-use categories (i.e., emissions from electricity generation are allocated to the economic sectors in which the electricity is consumed). To distribute electricity emissions among end-use sectors, emissions from the source categories assigned to electricity generation were allocated to the residential, commercial, industry, transportation, and agriculture economic sectors according to retail sales of electricity.¹³ These source categories include CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion and the use of limestone and dolomite for flue gas desulfurization, CO₂ and N₂O from waste

¹³ Emissions were not distributed to U.S. territories, since the electricity generation sector only includes emissions related to the generation of electricity in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

combustion, CH₄ and N₂O from stationary sources, and SF₆ from electrical transmission and distribution systems.

When emissions from electricity are distributed among these sectors, industry accounts for the largest share of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (28 percent) in 2006. Emissions from the residential and commercial sectors also increase substantially when emissions from electricity are included, due to their relatively large share of electricity consumption (e.g., lighting, appliances, etc.). Transportation activities remain the second largest contributor to total U.S. emissions (27 percent). In all sectors except agriculture, CO₂ accounts for more than 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels. Figure ES-14 shows the trend in these emissions by sector from 1990 to 2006.

Table ES-8: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector with Electricity-Related Emissions Distributed (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Implied Sectors	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Industry	2,102.6	2,137.9	2,176.9	2,062.4	2,051.4	2,065.8	2,075.6	2,041.1	2,029.8
Transportation	1,535.6	1,680.3	1,913.5	1,892.5	1,944.8	1,942.0	1,989.7	2,002.4	1,965.4
Commercial	948.6	1,005.6	1,143.1	1,150.8	1,152.0	1,173.9	1,188.5	1,213.7	1,205.7
Residential	956.7	1,030.0	1,163.3	1,155.4	1,180.1	1,213.7	1,210.1	1,244.4	1,190.4
Agriculture	732.0	755.2	752.4	782.0	757.0	721.1	729.5	751.5	748.3
U.S. Territories	34.1	41.1	47.3	54.5	53.3	59.7	61.0	60.5	62.4
Total Emissions	6,309.7	6,650.1	7,196.4	7,097.6	7,138.7	7,176.3	7,254.4	7,313.7	7,201.9
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Sinks)	(736.6)	(774.5)	(672.9)	(749.6)	(826.0)	(860.3)	(873.0)	(877.9)	(882.9)
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	5,573.1	5,875.6	6,523.6	6,348.0	6,312.7	6,316.0	6,381.4	6,435.8	6,318.9

See Table 2-14 for more detailed data.

Figure ES-14: Emissions with Electricity Distributed to Economic Sectors

[BEGIN BOX]

Box ES-2: Recent Trends in Various U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions-Related Data

Total emissions can be compared to other economic and social indices to highlight changes over time. These comparisons include: 1) emissions per unit of aggregate energy consumption, because energy-related activities are the largest sources of emissions; 2) emissions per unit of fossil fuel consumption, because almost all energy-related emissions involve the combustion of fossil fuels; 3) emissions per unit of electricity consumption, because the electric power industry—utilities and nonutilities combined—was the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2006; 4) emissions per unit of total gross domestic product as a measure of national economic activity; or 5) emissions per capita.

Table ES-9 provides data on various statistics related to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions normalized to 1990 as a baseline year. Greenhouse gas emissions in the United States have grown at an average annual rate of 0.8 percent since 1990. This rate is slightly slower than that for total energy or fossil fuel consumption and much slower than that for either electricity consumption or overall gross domestic product. Total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have also grown slightly slower than national population since 1990 (see Figure ES-15).

Table ES-9: Recent Trends in Various U.S. Data (Index 1990 = 100)

Variable	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Growth
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------

												h Rate ^a
GDP ^b	100		113		138	139	141	145	150	155	159	3.0%
Electricity Consumption ^c	100		112		127	125	128	129	131	134	135	1.9%
Fossil Fuel Consumption ^c	100		107		117	115	116	116	119	119	117	1.0%
Energy Consumption ^c	100		108		116	112	115	115	118	118	117	1.0%
Population ^d	100		107		113	114	115	116	117	118	119	1.1%
Greenhouse Gas Emissions ^e	100		105		114	112	113	114	115	116	114	0.8%

^a Average annual growth rate

^b Gross Domestic Product in chained 2000 dollars (BEA 2007)

^c Energy content-weighted values (EIA 2007b)

^d U.S. Census Bureau (2007)

^e GWP-weighted values

Figure ES-15: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita and Per Dollar of Gross Domestic Product

Source: BEA (2007), U.S. Census Bureau (2007), and emission estimates in this report.

[END BOX]

Indirect Greenhouse Gases (CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, and SO₂)

The reporting requirements of the UNFCCC¹⁴ request that information be provided on indirect greenhouse gases, which include CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, and SO₂. These gases do not have a direct global warming effect, but indirectly affect terrestrial radiation absorption by influencing the formation and destruction of tropospheric and stratospheric ozone, or, in the case of SO₂, by affecting the absorptive characteristics of the atmosphere. Additionally, some of these gases may react with other chemical compounds in the atmosphere to form compounds that are greenhouse gases.

Since 1970, the United States has published estimates of annual emissions of CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, and SO₂ (EPA 2008),¹⁵ which are regulated under the Clean Air Act. Table ES-10 shows that fuel combustion accounts for the majority of emissions of these indirect greenhouse gases. Industrial processes—such as the manufacture of chemical and allied products, metals processing, and industrial uses of solvents—are also significant sources of CO, NO_x, and NMVOCs.

Table ES-10: Emissions of NO_x, CO, NMVOCs, and SO₂ (Gg)

Gas/Activity	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
NO_x	21,645	21,272	19,203	18,410	17,938	17,043	16,177	15,569	14,869
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	10,920	10,622	10,310	9,819	10,154	9,642	9,191	8,739	8,287
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	9,883	9,821	8,002	7,667	6,791	6,419	6,004	5,853	5,610
Industrial Processes	591	607	626	656	534	528	524	519	515
Oil and Gas Activities	139	100	111	113	321	316	316	316	315
Municipal Solid Waste Combustion	82	88	114	114	98	97	97	97	97
Agricultural Burning	28	29	35	35	33	34	39	39	38
Solvent Use	1	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5

¹⁴ See <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop8/08.pdf>>.

¹⁵ NO_x and CO emission estimates from field burning of agricultural residues were estimated separately, and therefore not taken from EPA (2008).

Waste	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
CO	130,461	109,032	92,777	89,212	84,609	80,221	76,342	72,365	68,372
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	119,360	97,630	83,559	79,851	75,421	71,038	67,096	63,154	59,213
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	5,000	5,383	4,340	4,377	4,965	4,893	4,876	4,860	4,844
Industrial Processes	4,125	3,959	2,217	2,339	1,744	1,724	1,724	1,724	1,724
Municipal Solid Waste Combustion	978	1,073	1,670	1,672	1,439	1,437	1,437	1,437	1,437
Agricultural Burning	691	663	792	774	709	800	879	860	825
Oil and Gas Activities	302	316	146	147	323	321	321	321	322
Waste	1	2	8	8	7	7	7	7	7
Solvent Use	5	5	46	45	1	1	1	1	1
NMVOCs	20,930	19,520	15,228	15,048	15,640	15,170	14,807	14,444	14,082
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	10,932	8,745	7,230	6,872	7,235	6,885	6,587	6,289	5,991
Solvent Use	5,216	5,609	4,384	4,547	3,881	3,862	3,854	3,846	3,839
Industrial Processes	2,422	2,642	1,773	1,769	2,036	1,972	1,931	1,890	1,849
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	912	973	1,077	1,080	1,585	1,560	1,553	1,545	1,538
Oil and Gas Activities	554	582	389	400	545	538	533	528	523
Municipal Solid Waste Combustion	222	237	257	258	243	239	237	235	232
Waste	673	731	119	122	115	114	112	111	110
Agricultural Burning	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SO₂	20,935	16,891	14,829	14,452	13,403	13,631	13,232	13,114	12,258
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	18,407	14,724	12,848	12,461	11,613	11,956	11,625	11,573	10,784
Industrial Processes	1,307	1,117	1,031	1,047	850	804	800	797	793
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	793	672	632	624	683	621	564	508	451
Oil and Gas Activities	390	335	286	289	233	226	220	213	207
Municipal Solid Waste Combustion	38	42	29	30	23	22	22	22	22
Waste	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Solvent Use	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural Burning	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: (EPA 2008, disaggregated based on EPA 2003) except for estimates from field burning of agricultural residues.

NA (Not Available)

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Key Categories

The IPCC's *Good Practice Guidance* (IPCC 2000) defines a key category as a "[source or sink category] that is prioritized within the national inventory system because its estimate has a significant influence on a country's total inventory of direct greenhouse gases in terms of the absolute level of emissions, the trend in emissions, or both."¹⁶ By definition, key categories are sources or sinks that have the greatest contribution to the absolute overall level of national emissions in any of the years covered by the time series. In addition, when an entire time series of emission estimates is prepared, a thorough investigation of key categories must also account for the influence of trends of individual source and sink categories. Finally, a qualitative evaluation of key categories should be performed, in order to capture any key categories that were not identified in either of the quantitative analyses.

Figure ES-16 presents 2006 emission estimates for the key categories as defined by a level analysis (i.e., the contribution of each source or sink category to the total inventory level). The UNFCCC reporting guidelines request that key category analyses be reported at an appropriate level of disaggregation, which may lead to source

¹⁶ See Chapter 7 "Methodological Choice and Recalculation" in IPCC (2000).
<<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/gp/gpgaum.htm>>

and sink category names which differ from those used elsewhere in the inventory report. For more information regarding key categories, see section 1.5 and Annex 1 of the inventory report.

Figure ES-16: 2006 Key Categories—Tier 1 Level Assessment

Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC)

The United States seeks to continually improve the quality, transparency, and credibility of the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks. To assist in these efforts, the United States implemented a systematic approach to QA/QC. While QA/QC has always been an integral part of the U.S. national system for inventory development, the procedures followed for the current inventory have been formalized in accordance with the QA/QC plan and the UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

Uncertainty Analysis of Emission Estimates

While the current U.S. emissions inventory provides a solid foundation for the development of a more detailed and comprehensive national inventory, there are uncertainties associated with the emission estimates. Some of the current estimates, such as those for CO₂ emissions from energy-related activities and cement processing, are considered to have low uncertainties. For some other categories of emissions, however, a lack of data or an incomplete understanding of how emissions are generated increases the uncertainty associated with the estimates presented. Acquiring a better understanding of the uncertainty associated with inventory estimates is an important step in helping to prioritize future work and improve the overall quality of the Inventory. Recognizing the benefit of conducting an uncertainty analysis, the UNFCCC reporting guidelines follow the recommendations of the IPCC *Good Practice Guidance* (IPCC 2000) and require that countries provide single estimates of uncertainty for source and sink categories.

Currently, a qualitative discussion of uncertainty is presented for all source and sink categories. Within the discussion of each emission source, specific factors affecting the uncertainty surrounding the estimates are discussed. Most sources also contain a quantitative uncertainty assessment, in accordance with UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

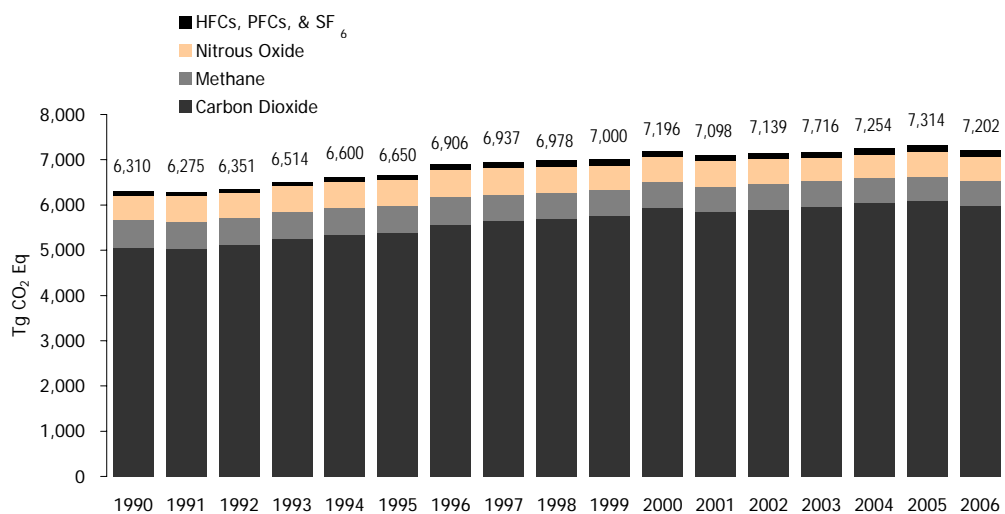


Figure ES-1: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas

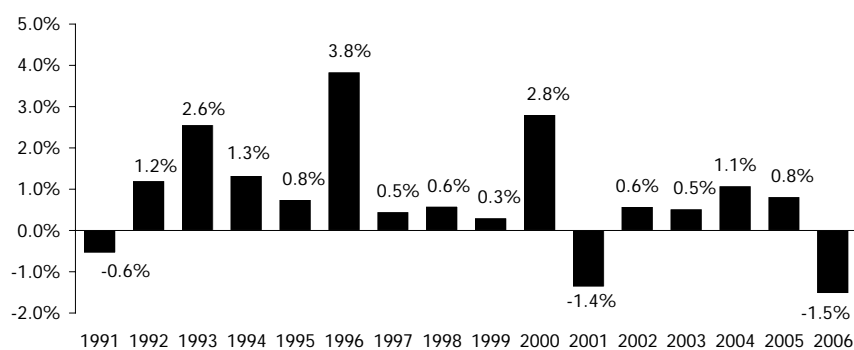


Figure ES-2: Annual Percent Change in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

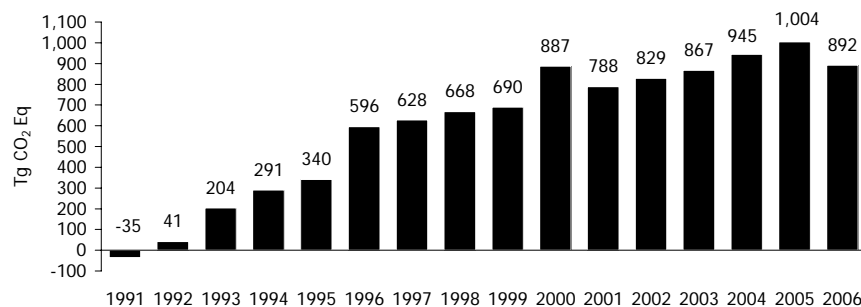


Figure ES-3: Cumulative Change in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Relative to 1990

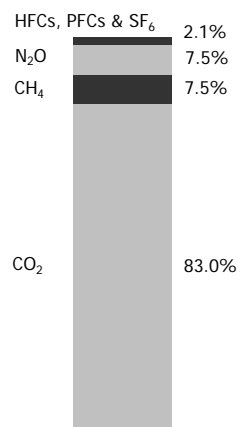


Figure ES-4: 2006 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas (percents based on Tg CO₂ Eq.)

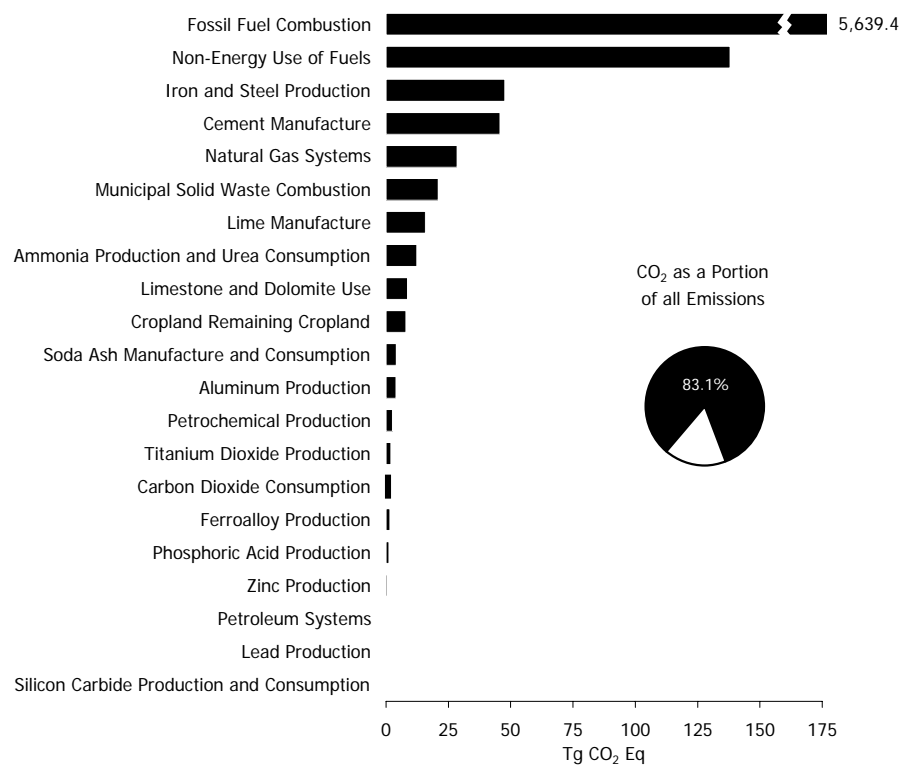


Figure ES-5: 2006 Sources of CO₂

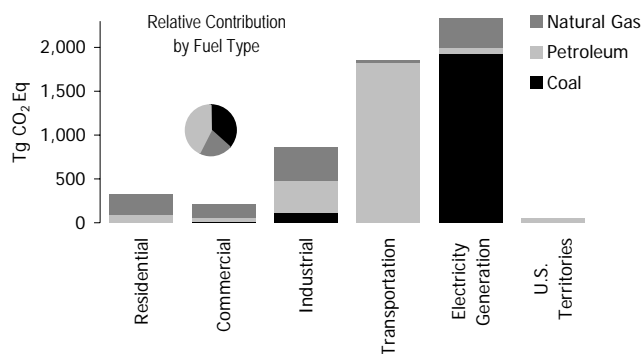


Figure ES-6: 2006 CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by Sector and Fuel Type

Note: Electricity generation also includes emissions of less than 1 Tg CO₂ Eq. from geothermal-based electricity generation.

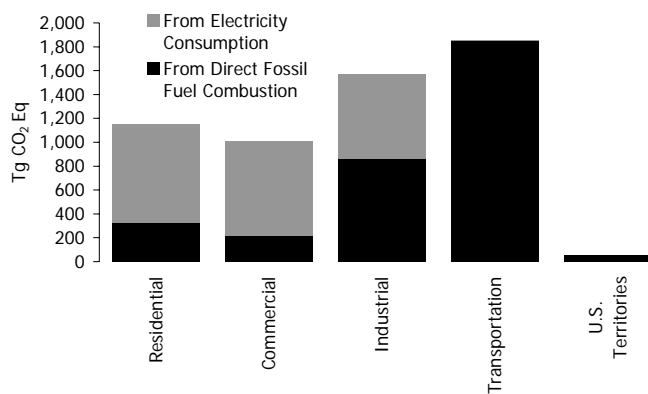


Figure ES-7: 2006 End-Use Sector Emissions of CO₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion

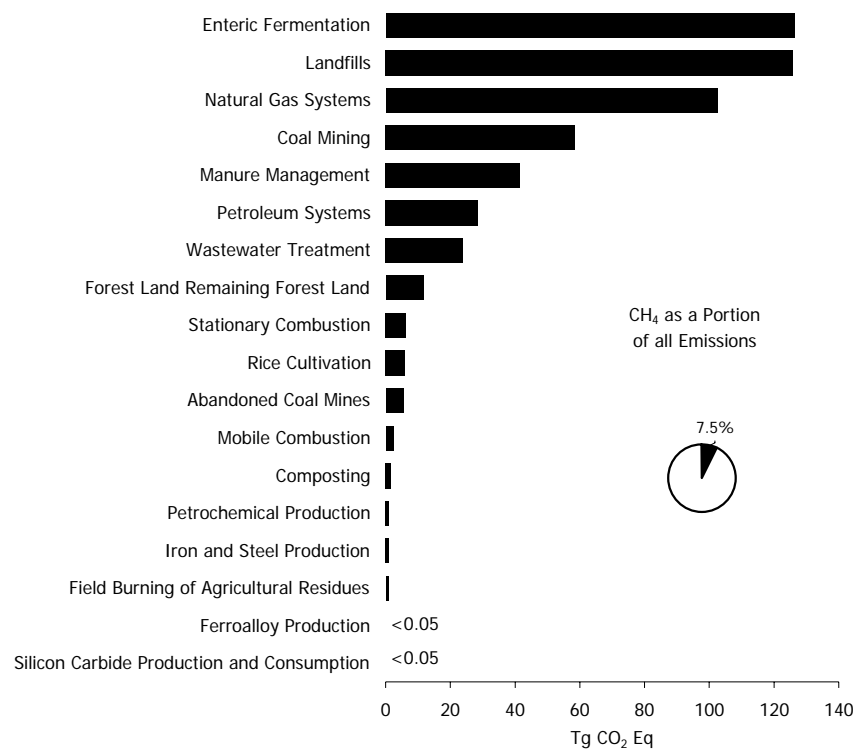


Figure ES-8: 2006 Sources of CH₄

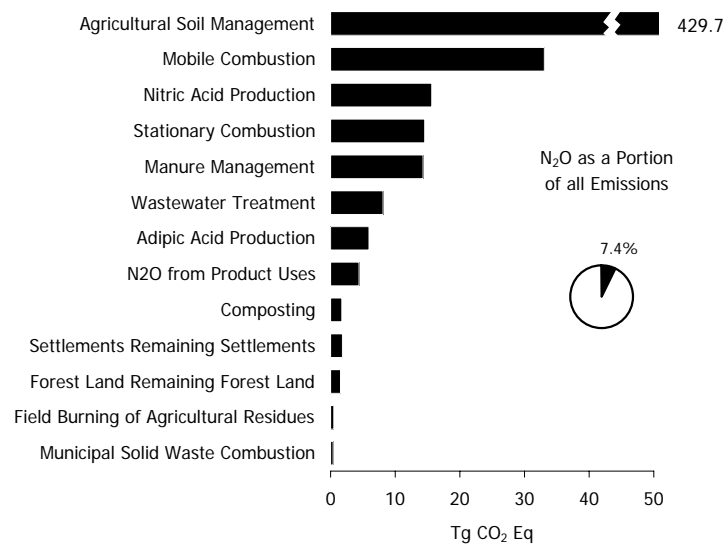


Figure ES-9: 2006 Sources of N₂O

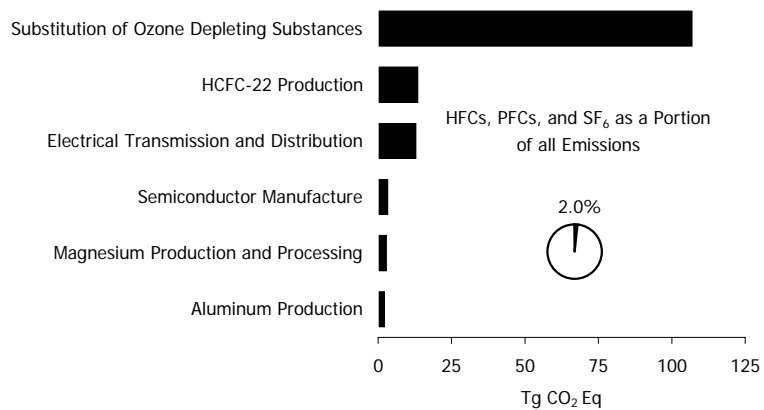
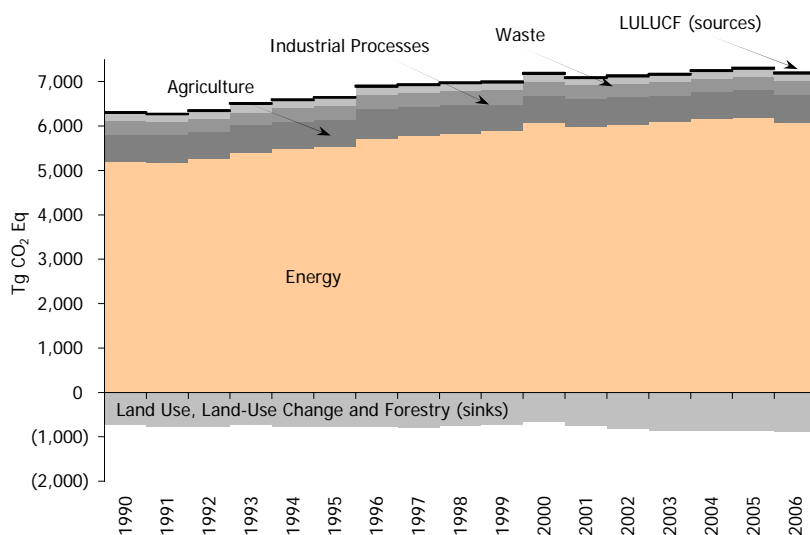


Figure ES-10: 2006 Sources of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆



Note: Relatively smaller amounts of GWP-weighted emissions are also emitted from the Solvent and Other Product Use sector

Figure ES-11: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by Chapter/IPCC Sector

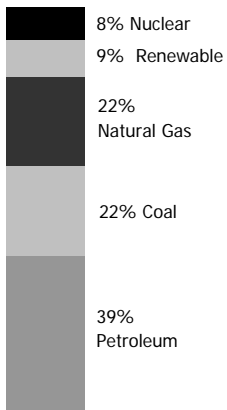


Figure ES-12: 2006 U.S. Energy Consumption by Energy Source

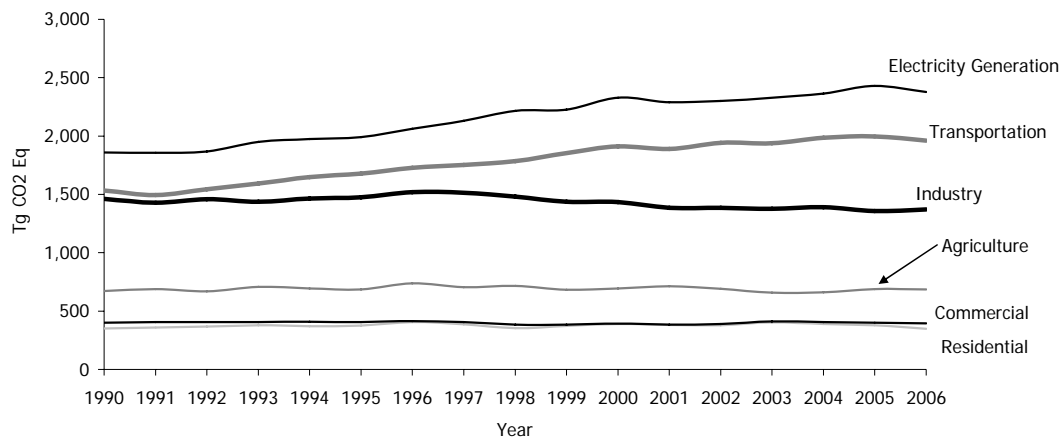


Figure ES-13: Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors
Note: Does not include U.S. territories.

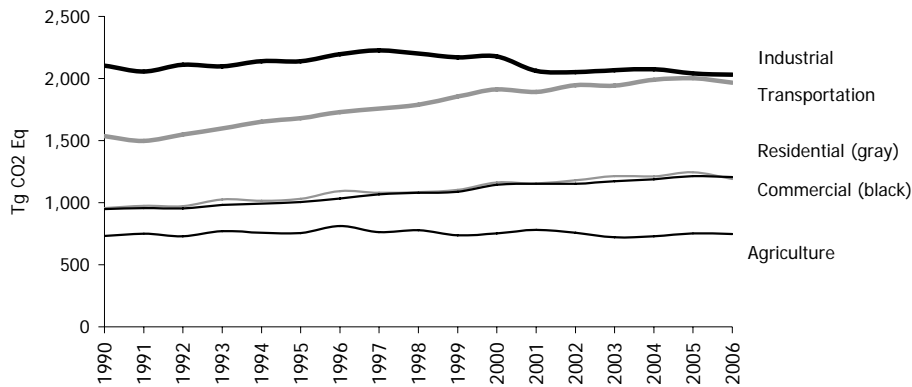


Figure ES-14: Emissions with Electricity Distributed to Economic Sectors
Note: Does not include U.S. territories.



Figure ES-15: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita and Per Dollar of Gross Domestic Product

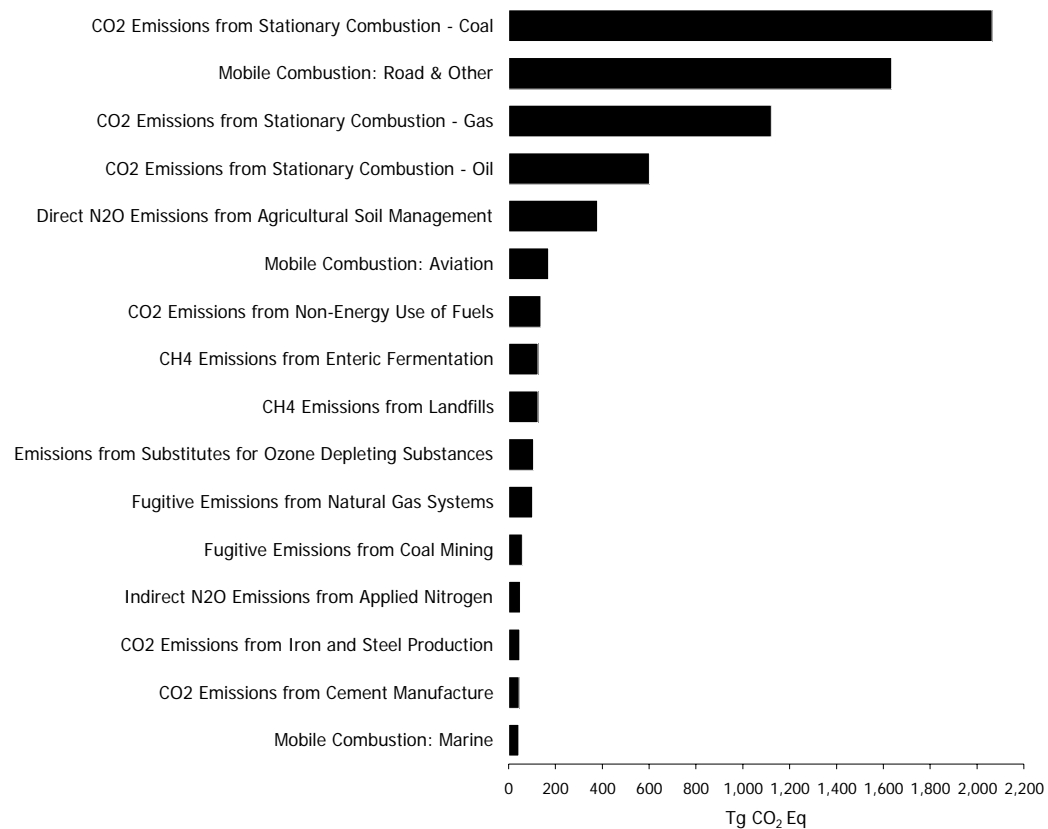


Figure ES-16: 2006 Key Categories - Tier 1 Level Assessment
 Note: For a complete discussion of the key source analysis see Annex 1.